



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held September 28, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

“The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has the responsibility of assuring children are in safe, stable, permanent homes. Over 27,000 children are in the care of the Department today and many of those youth will achieve permanency through reunification, transfer of guardianship or termination of parental rights and adoption. Many of the remainder will remain in a family setting through a long-term foster care arrangement. Unfortunately some experiences have been characterized by multiple moves from home to home or lengthy stays in congregate care. It is critical to improve outcomes for this group of youth by providing alternative supports to assure a safe, stable environment that better meets their needs.

“DCFS has undertaken numerous initiatives to reduce the number of youth experiencing multiple moves and to assure that all children have the opportunity to live permanently with a safe stable family, and initial indications of these initiatives are demonstrating success. However, many youth entered out-of-home care in the 1990s and legal permanency through a family setting. This setting may no longer be a viable way to meet their needs. Therefore, a service that targets the highest-need youth and focuses on academic achievement should be explored as a strategy to improve outcomes for this group of youth. Current services are generally designed as short term and often fall short in meeting the needs of these youth as evidenced by their poor outcomes. A structured residential educational setting designed to provide safety, stability and academic support may be a viable alternative for some youth characterized by histories of multiple moves or extended stays in group home settings for treatment.”

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Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Burke and on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to take the following actions:

1. Issue a letter of interest to available and potential community providers, including licensed group homes and organizations who have expressed interest in providing a structured residential educational setting designed to provide safety, stability and academic support as a viable alternative for some youth characterized by histories of multiple moves or extended stays in group home settings for treatment. The letter should include a definition of a residential academy, the target population to be served and the outcomes to be produced, with issuance of the letter to result in identification of available and potential community providers for residential academy services; and
2. Report back to the Board within 90 days on the results of the letter of interest.

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